

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMS-01 A-01 /030 W

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R 141057Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9355

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. LL652: N/A

TAGS: AORG

SUBJECT: RANK OF MY DCM

SUMMARY: THERE FOLLOWS MY RECOMMENDATION THAT MY NEW DCM BE GIVEN THE PERSONAL RANK OF MINISTER AS COMPARED TO MINISTER-COUNSELOR RANK OF THE PRESENT INCUMBENT. SUGGEST TIME HAS COME TO RE-RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

1. AS YOU WILL RECALL, IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION THE DEPARTMENT HAD A RUNNING DISPUTE WITH THE THEN-CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHO FELT THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN ABUSING THE GRANTING OF THE PERSONAL RANK OF MINISTER, AND HE DECIDED TO TAKE STEPS TO CONTROL SUCH "ABUSE." ACCORDINGLY, SENATOR FULBRIGHT INSISTED THAT ANY FURTHER GRANTING OF THE PERSONAL RANK OF MINISTER COULD ONLY BE MADE WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF HIS COMMITTEE, WHICH IN TURN WOULD BE GIVEN ONLY AFTER AN APPEARANCE BEFORE HIS COMMITTEE. THE DEPARTMENT REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE THEN - CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL AND AFTER AN IMPASSE WHICH LASTED SEVERAL MONTHS A COMPROMISE WAS REACHED PERMITTING THE DEPARTMENT ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE TO GRANT THE RANK OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE NO-ONE WITH THE PERSONAL RANK OF MINISTER HAS BEEN APPOINTED SINCE THE LATTER HALF OF 1969.

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2. NOW THAT THE CHANGE IS ABOUT TO BE MADE IN THE DCM AT THIS CLASS ONE MISSION, I FEEL THE TIME HAS APPROPRIATELY COME WHEN THIS DECISION SHOULD BE RE-EXAMINED. AS I AM SURE LARRY EAGLEBERGER HAS INFORMED YOU, I HAVE SELECTED SAM GAMMON AS MY NEXT DCM. I FEEL THAT MY NEW DCM WILL REQUIRE THE PERSONAL RANK OF MINISTER TO ENABLE HIM TO DEAL MOST EFFECTIVELY WITH THE WIDE RANGE OF SENIOR FRENCH OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE WILL COME IN CONTACT. AS YOU KNOW, THE FRENCH ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE, PROBABLY MORE THAN WE DO, TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TITLES OF THIS SORT, AND I WOULD HOPE THAT NOW THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAS CHANGED YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SEE TO IT THAT CHAIRMAN SPARKMAN IS APPROACHED IN THIS REGARD WITH THE VIEW TO HAVING MR. GAMMON GRANTED THE PERSONAL RANK OF MINISTER. I WILL MUCH APPRECIATE ANYTHING YOU DO PERSONALLY TO SEE THAT THIS GOAL IS ATTAINED. I, OF COURSE, RECOMMEND THAT THE SAME ACTION BE ACCORDED DCM'S OF OTHER MAJOR MISSIONS.

WARM REGARDS,  
RUSH

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